

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Congressman John W. Olver (D-1st District) announced that the U.S. House of Representatives has approved funding for a streetscaping initiative in downtown Pittsfield. Olver secured the funding in the FY08 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Appropriations bill. Olver is Chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation and HUD and worked in that capacity to secure the funding. The Senate must still approve its appropriations bill and then both chambers will have to approve a reconciliation bill. "The project will further revitalize downtown Pittsfield," Olver said. "It will boost the arts and culture element of the downtown area. The streetscaping initiative for downtown Pittsfield involves decorative paving, period lighting, trees with benches, and other improvements. The goal of streetscaping is to make downtown Pittsfield more attractive and appealing to pedestrians and visitors. "Berkshire County as a whole will benefit from downtown Pittsfield Streetscaping. Pittsfield is the economic engine of the region. Congressman Olver secured \$1.8 million for the first phase of this project in FY06 funds.

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